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Aske Marina  
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Shelburne, VT 05482

Laura Trieschmann  
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
One National Life Drive  
Deane C. Davis Building, 6th Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620

April 20, 2021

Dear Ms. Trieschmann,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding Shelburne Shipyard's recently questioned historical status. My family's involvement at the Shipyard—building vessels for the WWII effort and the Korean War, and ultimately transitioning the property into a recreational marina—has moved me to write to you today. I believe that Shelburne Shipyard is not only one of the most significant historical sites in the state, but a living reminder of true Vermont craftsmanship and ingenuity.

During the golden age of steamboat building in the 1800s, Shelburne Shipyard served as the predominant location on Lake Champlain where steamboats were born. Perhaps you have been to Shelburne Museum and set foot aboard the steamboat, Ticonderoga, to experience the splendor of the vessels built at the Shipyard. Many of their bones now rest on the lakebed in the shallow waters that surround the Shipyard; these largely unstudied shipwrecks remain a trove of archeological history.

In 1942, L.J. Aske, my great grandfather, secured a contract with the U.S. Navy to build subchasers, tugboats and various other vessels during WWII. This effort put hundreds of Vermont craftsmen to work from around the region and aided in revitalizing the greater Burlington economy. Many buildings on the property bore witness to these pivotal events and stood long before—perhaps above all, the main boat shop (building no. 4). This grand structure is now over one hundred years old and persists as a physical icon of the era.

Today, Shelburne Shipyard endures as a testament to Lake Champlain's rich maritime history. It undoubtedly fulfills the state's requirements as a historic site, as it easily meets each and every criterion for evaluation. My family urges the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council to retain Shelburne Shipyard on the Vermont State Register and strongly supports its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this vital matter.

Best regards,

Charles Tompkin and the Aske Family